

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/942,314

Applicant(s)

WAKABAYASHI ET AL.

Examiner

Phuongchau Ba Nguyen

Art Unit

2665

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 08-29-01 & interview 2-22-05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-22.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 29 August 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 10-22-4;1-5-4;1-29-02
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date 2-22-05.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Bean on 2-22-05.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

**-Claim 2, line 2:** "APS" had been changed to

---Automatic Protection Switching (APS)---

**-Claim 3, line 2:** "SNOP" had been changed to

--- Snooping of Outgoing Port (SNOP)---

**-Claim 13, line 3:** "QOSes" had been changed to

---Quality of Service (QOS) class---

**-Claim 22, line 3:** "INF" had been changed to ---Input Line Interface---

**-Claim 22, line 5:** "BUF" had been changed to ---Buffer (BUF)---

***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claims 1-3, the prior art fails to teach or suggest a switching apparatus for routing a packet, the apparatus comprising "a packet copying section including N-to-one selectors located so as to correspond to N output ports of the matrix switch," in combination with other limitations, as specified in the independent claim 1.

Regarding claim 4, the prior art fails to teach or suggest a communication for performing packet communication, the apparatus comprising **"an input line interface section including multicast information giving means for dividing a variable-length frame input into a plurality of fixed-length packets and for giving multicast identification information to the effect that a multicast is performed only to a leading packet as multicast information in the case of multicasting the frame,"** in combination with other limitations, as specified in the independent claim 4.

Regarding claims 5-19, the prior art fails to teach or suggest a communication system for accommodating many lines and controlling communication, the system comprising "a packet copying section including N-to-one selectors located so as to correspond to N output ports of the matrix switch," in combination with other limitations, as specified in the independent claim 5.

Regarding claims 20-21, the prior art fails to teach or suggest a multistage switching system for accommodating many lines and controlling communication, the system comprising "a packet copying section including N-to-one selectors located so as to correspond to N output ports of the matrix switch," in combination with other limitations, as specified in the independent claim 20.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuongchau Ba Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-3148. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Huy Vu can be reached on 571-272-3155. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

*PN*  
Phuongchau Ba Nguyen  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2665

**DUCHO  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

*Ducho*  
4-27-05